

## **MINUTES**

**CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH  
CITY COUNCIL  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY  
HOUSING AUTHORITY  
IMPERIAL BEACH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SUCCESSOR AGENCY**

**MARCH 1, 2017**

**Council Chambers  
825 Imperial Beach Boulevard  
Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

**SPECIAL MEETING - 6:00 P.M.**

### **SPECIAL MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dedina called the Special Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers present: West, Patton  
Councilmembers absent: Spriggs  
Mayor present: Dedina  
Mayor Pro Tem present: Bragg  
Staff present: City Manager Hall, City Attorney Lyon, City Clerk Kelly, Assistant  
City Manager Dush, Public Works Director Levien, Assistant  
Public Works Director Helmer

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**1. RESOLUTION NO. 2017-7777 CONTINUING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO IMPACTS FROM CROSS-BORDER POLLUTION IN THE TIJUANA RIVER. (0150-40 & 0210-26)**

Assistant Public Works Director Helmer reported on the item and noted the IBWC reported 143 million gallons of sewage was discharged into the Tijuana River. He also reported that the largest storm of the season occurred on Monday which flushed the river and estuary of trash, sediment, wood debris and tires and onto the beach. He showed a video of the pollution flowing in the Tijuana River.

**MOTION BY PATTON, SECOND BY WEST, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2017-7777 CONTINUING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO IMPACTS FROM CROSS-BORDER POLLUTION IN THE TIJUANA RIVER. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

**AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: PATTON, WEST, BRAGG, DEDINA**

**NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE**

**ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: SPRIGGS**

**2. DISCUSSION ON FLOODING AND SEWAGE SPILL IN THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY. (0150-40 & 0210-26)**

The following information was submitted as last minute agenda information:

- a. Letter to Chairman Jacob J. Lew, North American Development Bank, dated November 16, 2016;
- b. Letter to Geronimo Gutierrez, North American Development Bank, dated January 10, 2017;
- c. Email messages re: Sewage Spill Tijuana River/Federal Report;
- d. Email messages re: Massive Discharge of Raw Sewage into TJ River Re: NADB Response Letter; and
- e. Letter from Congressman Juan Vargas, dated March 1, 2017.

Assistant Public Works Director Helmer stated no official report has been received from Mexico regarding the facts of the sewage spill incident. There is speculation that there was a break in the sewer collection system in Tijuana in the beginning of February which required an emergency repair. During that repair the normal sewage flow was bypassed into the Tijuana River from February 6 to February 23 and this timeframe coincides with the persistent stench of sewage in the South Bay. He also stated the City was notified on February 24 that there was a spill and that it has been fixed.

Councilmember West commented on his experience when he visited the area, most noticeable was the sewage smell and the number of Pismo Clams that were killed.

Diane Rose, former Mayor of Imperial Beach, spoke about her similar experiences 20 years ago with Mexico and their lack of communication during sewage flows. She stressed that it is critical that the City be notified about sewage flows entering the river so the City can take the necessary steps to address the situation.

City Manager Hall stated it was troubling that the City was not notified about the issue. He stressed the importance of speaking with a unified voice and to communicate to state, national and international leaders the importance of this matter with regard to the health of our residents and the economic health of our community.

Mayor Dedina recognized Diane Rose for her efforts in getting a new sewage plant built. He stressed the importance of communicating and working together to solve problems. He spoke about the letters that were submitted as last minute agenda information, reported that the sewage is impacting a 20 mile stretch of coastline from Coronado to Rosarito Beach and stressed the need to make sewage infrastructure a priority. He also expressed disappointment and concern with the deafening silence by both the IBWC and EPA.

City Manager Hall reported that both the IBWC and the EPA have not notified the City about this issue which is doubly disappointing.

Mayor Dedina stated the City started contacting Mexican officials regarding the sewage issue on February 15 with no response back from them. He thanked City Council, staff and residents for being involved and emphasized that the problem will be solved.

#### **ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING**

Mayor Dedina adjourned the Special meeting at 7:21 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Serge Dedina,  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jacqueline M. Kelly, MMC  
City Clerk